THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) On 19th November 1998, US notified 40 Indian entities along with 200 subordinate entities, which will be covered by export restrictions. The list specifies the entities believed by the US to have been involved in the nuclear and missile related programmes and includes organisations in the field of atomic energy, space and defence, establishments involved in conventional military activities and a number of Indian public and private sector companies. US exporters would require licences to export to the listed entities and most licences would be denied, except for items intended to ensure the safety of civil aviation and safe operation of commercial passenger aircraft.

(c) The government has been closely monitoring every detail about the economic measures announced against India and continuously assessing their likely impact. Though any precise quantification of the impact of the economic measures may be difficult, so far the impact has been minimal. The fundamentals of Indian economy are strong enough to be able to withstand any pressure arising out of the economic sanctions.

VRS in PSUs

836. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved some time-bound programme and funds for effecting Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in eight sick public sector undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of employees to be covered, unit-wise;

(c) by when the VRS process is likely to be completed; and

(d) what modalities have been framed to extract better terms from buyers for the assets of the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) Government have taken a decision to offer benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to the employees of following eight Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Deptt, of Heavy Industry. The offer will be for a period of three months.

S.No	Name of the PSU	No of Employees
1	National Instruments Ltd. (NIL)	863
	Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd. (RIC)	2272
3.	Bharat Ophthalmic Cuss Ltd. (BOGL)	472
4.	Weighbird India Ltd. (WIL)	*183*
5.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Lid. (NBC1L)	676
6.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL)	171S
7.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC)	4217
8.	Tannery & Footwear Corporation Ltd. (TAFCO)	1400

(d) The disposal ot these PSUs will depend upon the final orders of BIFR/ Courts.

Industrially backward areas of Gujarat

837. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the industrially backward areas in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what fiscal incentives and subsidies arc being offered to entrepreneurs by Government and Govenrment of Gujarat to attract industries in these backwad areas of the State; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) had vide Notification No. S.O. 714(E) dated 7.10.97 specified 53 category 'A' industrially backward districts and 70 category 'B' industrially backward districts for grant of tax concessions under Income Tax Act, 1961. Three districts of Gujarat are included in the list of which one district namely The Dangs is in category 'A' and two districts namely Banaskantha and Sabarkantha are included in category 'B'.

(c) and (d) Undertakings set up in industrially backward States or districts, which start manufacture or production on or before 31.3.1998 are entitled a two-tier tax benefit. The Finance Bill, 1998 proposes to extend the tax holiday benefit upto 31.3.2000. Undertakings which meet the above requirement and are set up in industrially backward States and industrially backward districts specified as category 'A' districts are entitled to five year tax holiday (100% deduction from profits derived by them). A Deduction of 25% (30% in the case of companies) from the profits is allowed for . a further period of five years. In the case of category 'B' industrially backward districts, the period of tax holiday is three years and a deduction of 25% (30% in the case of companies) from the profits of such undertakings is allowed for a further period of five years.

With a view to promoting industrialisation of the backward areas in the country, the Ministry of Industry is also operating the Growth Centre Scheme under which 71 growth centres are proposed to be set up throughout the country. The selected growth centres are to be provided with basic infrastructural facilities like power, water, telecommunications and banking, enabling them to attract industries. Each of the selected growth centre is to be developed in an area of about 400-800 hectares with Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores.

Pay revision in PSUs

838. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Justice S. Mohan Committee's Report on pay revision for public sector undertakings (PSUs) executives was submitted to Government on 30th October, 1998;

(b) if so, the most important and major recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government have examined all the recommendations;

(d) whether Government have accepted all the recommendations of Mohan Committee including performance related incentive payments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when Government's decision thereon would be announced and the date from which they would become effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Major recommendations of the